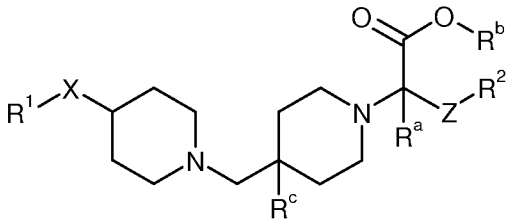
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R^a and R^b are, independently, hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl ~~or R^a forms part of a ring as defined below~~;

R^c is hydrogen or hydroxy;

X is CH_2, C(O), O, S, S(O), $S(O)_2$ or NR^3;

Z is $CHR^d(CH_2)_n$;

n is 0 or 1;

R^d is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy or C_{1-4} alkoxy;

R^1 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl;

R^2 is aryl or heterocyclyl;

wherein, unless stated otherwise, the foregoing aryl and heterocyclyl moieties are optionally substituted by: halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, oxo, $S(O)_pR^4$, $OC(O)NR^5R^6$, NR^7R^8, $NR^9C(O)R^{10}$, $NR^{11}C(O)NR^{12}R^{13}$, $S(O)_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{16}S(O)_2R^{17}$, $C(O)NR^{18}R^{19}$, $C(O)R^{20}$, CO_2R^{21}, $NR^{22}CO_2R^{23}$, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkoxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, OCF_3, C_{1-6} alkoxy(C_{1-6})alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl (itself optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl or oxo), methylenedioxy, difluoromethylenedioxy, phenyl, phenyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, phenoxy, phenylthio, phenyl(C_{1-4})alkoxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, heterocyclyloxy or heterocyclyl(C_{1-4})alkoxy; wherein any of the immediately foregoing phenyl and heterocyclyl

moieties are optionally substituted with halogen, hydroxy, nitro, $S(O)_q(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 below), cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 below), CO_2H, $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHS(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), CF_3 or OCF_3;

~~or Z, R^2 and R^a together with the carbon atom to which Z and R^a are attached form a ring~~;

p and q are, independently, 0, 1 or 2;

R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{21} and R^{22} are, independently, hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy or C_{3-10} cycloalkyl), $CH_2(C_{2-6}$ alkenyl), phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, nitro, NH_2, $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 below), $S(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 below), cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 below), CO_2H, $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHS(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), CF_3 or OCF_3) or heterocyclyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, nitro, NH_2, $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 below), $S(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 below), cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 below), CO_2H, $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHS(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), CF_3 or OCF_3);

alternatively NR^5R^6, NR^7R^8, $NR^{12}R^{13}$, $NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{18}R^{19}$, ~~may,~~ independently, form a 4-7 membered heterocyclic ring, azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, azepine, morpholine or piperazine, the latter optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl on the distal nitrogen;

R^4, R^{17} and R^{23} are, independently, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy or C_{3-10} cycloalkyl), $CH_2(C_{2-6}$ alkenyl), phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, nitro, NH_2, $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a

ring as described for R^5 and R^6 above), $S(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 above), cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 above), CO_2H, $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHS(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), CF_3 or OCF_3) or heterocyclyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, nitro, NH_2, $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 above), $S(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 above), cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^5 and R^6 above), CO_2H, $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHS(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), CF_3 or OCF_3);

R^3 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or benzyl;

or an N-oxide thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~; or a solvate thereof~~.

2. (Original) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein X is O.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein the aryl and heterocyclyl moieties of R^1 and R^2 are, independently, optionally substituted by: halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, oxo, $S(O)_pR^4$, $OC(O)NR^5R^6$, NR^7R^8, $NR^9C(O)R^{10}$, $NR^{11}C(O)NR^{12}R^{13}$, $S(O)_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{16}S(O)_2R^{17}$, $C(O)NR^{18}R^{19}$, $C(O)R^{20}$, CO_2R^{21}, $NR^{22}CO_2R^{23}$, C_{1-6} alkyl, CF_3, C_{1-6} alkoxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy or OCF_3; p is 0, 1 or 2; R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{21} and R^{22} are, independently, hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen) or phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, nitro, NH_2, $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$, $S(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$, CO_2H, $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHS(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), CF_3 or OCF_3); and R^4, R^{17} and R^{23} are, independently, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen) or phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, nitro, NH_2, $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$, $S(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2N(C_{1-4}$

alkyl)$_2$, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$, CO_2H, $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHS(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), CF_3 or OCF_3).

4. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^a is hydrogen.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^b is hydrogen or methyl.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^c is hydrogen.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^d is hydrogen, hydroxy or C_{1-4} alkyl.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein Z is CH_2, CH_2CH_2, $CHCH_3$ or CHOH.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^2 is phenyl or heterocyclyl optionally substituted by halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, NR^7R^8, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally substituted with halogen), C_{1-6} alkoxy (optionally substituted with halogen), $S(O)_p(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $S(O)_rCF_3$ or $S(O)_2NR^{14}R^{15}$; p and r are, independently, 0, 1 or 2; and R^7, R^8, R^{14} and R^{15} are, independently, hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy or C_{3-10} cycloalkyl), $CH_2(C_{2-5}$ alkenyl), phenyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, nitro, NH_2, $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$, $S(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^7 and R^8 below), cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$

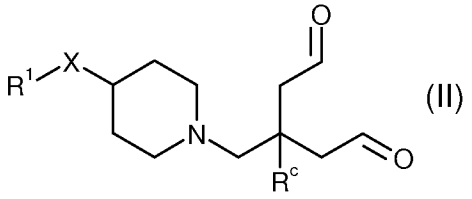
(and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^7 and R^8 below), CO_2H, $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHS(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), CF_3 or OCF_3) or heterocyclyl (itself optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, nitro, NH_2, $NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$, $S(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2NH_2$, $S(O)_2NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $S(O)_2N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^7 and R^8 below), cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, $C(O)NH_2$, $C(O)NH(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)N(C_{1-4}$ alkyl)$_2$ (and these alkyl groups ~~may~~ optionally join to form a ring as described for R^7 and R^8 below), CO_2H, $CO_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHC(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $NHS(O)_2(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), $C(O)(C_{1-4}$ alkyl), CF_3 or OCF_3); or alternatively NR^7R^8 or $NR^{14}R^{15}$ ~~may~~, independently, form a 4-7 membered heterocyclic ring, azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, azepine, morpholine or piperazine, the latter optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl on the distal nitrogen.

11. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^2 is phenyl or heterocyclyl optionally substituted by halogen, cyano, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy.

12. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 wherein heterocyclyl is indolyl, imidazolyl, thienyl or pyridinyl.

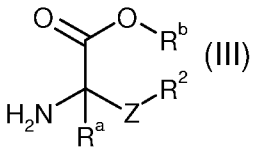
13. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 comprising:

a. reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

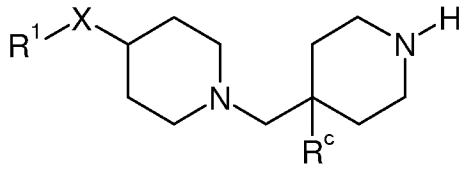
with a compound of formula (III):


(III)

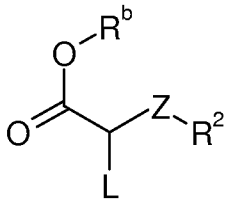
in the presence of $NaBH(OAc)_3$ or $NaBH_3(CN)$ in a suitable solvent at a suitable temperature;

b. when R^b is not hydrogen, reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (III), where R^b is not hydrogen, in the presence of $NaBH(OAc)_3$ ~~in the presence of~~ and a suitable base in a suitable solvent at a suitable temperature;

c. when R^a represents H, reacting a compound of formula (IX):

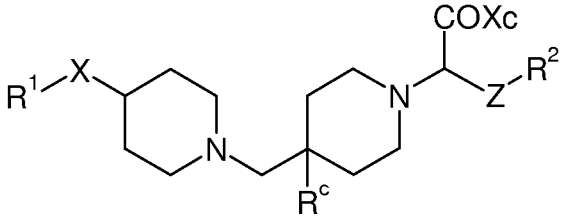

(IX)

with a compound of formula (X):


(X)

wherein L is a suitable leaving group, in a suitable solvent, at a temperature in the range 0°C to 30°C, in the presence of a base; or,

d. when R^a represents H, hydrolysing a compound of formula (XIV):


(XIV)

wherein Xc is a chiral auxiliary, in a suitable solvent, at a temperature between 10°C and reflux of the solvent.

14. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of the formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~or solvate thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~a chemokine mediated disease state~~ an obstructive disease of airways in a mammal suffering from, or at risk of, said disease, which comprises administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~or solvate thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 2 wherein R^1 is phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy.

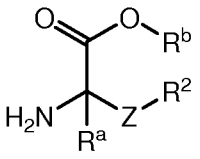
19. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 2 wherein R^a is hydrogen.

20. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 2 wherein R^b is hydrogen or methyl.

21. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 2 wherein R^c is hydrogen.

22. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 2 wherein R^d is hydrogen, hydroxy or C_{1-4} alkyl.

23. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula (III):



(III),

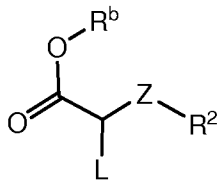
wherein

Z is $CHR^d(CH_2)_n$; or Z, R^2 and R^a, together with the carbon atom to which Z and R^a are attached, form a ring;

R^2 is aryl or heterocyclyl; or R^2, Z, and R^a, together with the carbon atom to which Z and R^a are attached, form a ring; and

R^a and R^b are, independently, hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl; or R^a, Z, and R^2, together with the carbon atom to which Z and R^a are attached, form a ring.

24. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula (X):



(X),

wherein

Z is $CHR^d(CH_2)_n$;

L is a leaving group;

R^2 is aryl or heterocyclyl; and

R^b is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl.

25. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 24, wherein L is bromide, triflate, or methanesulfonate.

26. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein the obstructive disease of airways is selected from the group consisting of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; asthma; bronchitis; acute, allergic, atrophic, or chronic rhinitis; membranous rhinitis; seasonal rhinitis; sarcoidosis; farmer's lung; nasal polyposis; fibroid lung; idiopathic interstitial pneumonia; antitussive activity; chronic cough associated with inflammatory conditions of the airways or iatrogenic induced cough.

27. (New) A method of treating rheumatic arthrides, infectious arthrides, autoimmune arthrides, seronegative spondyloarthropathies arthrides, Behcet's disease, Sjogren's syndrome, or systemic sclerosis in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in claim 1.

28. (New) A method of treating asthma or rhinitis in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in claim 1.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the asthma is selected from the group consisting of bronchial, allergic, intrinsic, extrinsic, and dust asthma, and the rhinitis is selected from the group consisting of acute, allergic, atrophic, or chronic rhinitis, membranous rhinitis, and seasonal rhinitis.